

Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey



Request for Proposal (RFP)

Trauma-Informed Care for Young Children Grant Program

Release Date: January 7, 2019

Response Due Date: February 8, 2019

Project Start Date: April 1, 2019

Grantor: Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey
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Overview

Utilizing \$355,000 in funds received by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) from a settlement with Care.com, the AGO is pleased to offer a funding opportunity to strengthen trauma-informed early education and care practices for children from birth to age five. The Trauma-Informed Care for Young Children Grant Program is geared specifically toward funding training and other efforts to improve the capacity of early education and care providers to address the needs of children experiencing trauma.

Purpose

Children who have suffered or are suffering trauma come to early childhood programs with a wide variety of needs. Examples of trauma include violence, separation from a loved one, stress due to poverty, or related to the opioid crisis. As a result, early education and care providers have a growing need for resources to support and educate young children in a trauma-informed way. Equipping providers to best support these children and address their needs results in a higher functioning classroom setting and a higher quality of care for vulnerable children.

The grant funds are intended to build providers' capacity to support children impacted by trauma. The AGO will consider applications from providers and organizations seeking to train or otherwise support providers to build particular competencies to address trauma. Examples of such competencies include, but are not limited to: establishing educational, classroom management, and caregiving practices that are critical to a trauma-informed classroom; making appropriate referrals to early intervention, special education, and other services to support children's development or education; and connecting parents and other caregivers to services that help to provide a stable and supportive home environment. Providers include child care centers and family child care programs. While for-profit child care programs may not receive grant funding, non-profit partners may apply and provide training or other support to the range of child care programs.

The AGO will give preference to applications that set forth and commit to the anticipated outcomes of the proposed grant and that include sustained support (e.g., if the application is for training, follow-up coaching might also be included). The AGO will also give preference to applicants who demonstrate how they plan to build capacity within early education and care programs. The AGO encourages joint applications from providers and support organizations that will work together to carry out the proposed project.

Eligibility

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply:

- Non-profit organizations within Massachusetts*

*Non-profit organizations must be in full compliance with all annual reporting requirements of both the AGO and the Internal Revenue Service, as applicable, in order to be eligible for funding.

Funding, Duration, and Anticipated Timeline

Grant awards will be issued in varying amounts up to \$355,000. Applicant budgets may or may not be funded in their entirety. All funding decisions will be at the discretion of the AGO.

Grants will be awarded with an anticipated start date of April 1, 2019. The maximum grant period will be two (2) years. The AGO will not allow program extensions.

Cash Flow and Disbursement of Grant Funds

Disbursements are expected to be sent to awarded grantees by Electronic Funds Transfer, provided grantees have completed all necessary contract and periodic reporting documents by the established deadlines. The first disbursement will be sent at the start of the grant program.

Submission Instructions

- Proposals must be delivered electronically through the AGO's online grant application by 5:00 p.m. on **February 8, 2019**.
- Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.
- Applications will not be accepted in any other format.
- Interested applicants may access the application here: www.mass.gov/ago/grants.
- New applicants will be asked to create a free online account. Any applicant that has applied for any grant using the online grant management system may log into its existing account.
- Once applicants have started an application, the application may be saved and returned to later.
- Confirmation of Receipt: Applicants typically receive an email confirmation within 48 business hours; if one is not received, please call 617-963-2291 for further instructions and assistance.

Evaluation of Proposals

All funding decisions will be at the discretion of the AGO. Applicants may receive no funding or less funding than requested. Some of the criteria utilized in the selection process include:

- Knowledge of trauma-informed care practices and/or services and supports that children and families impacted by trauma might need;
- Experience working with programs that work with young children;
- Experience building capacity through training or through other mechanisms (if the proposed grant is not for training);
- Commitment to advancing trauma-informed child care practices and early education;

- Strength of program design and plan of implementation;
- Need and diversity of applicant’s intended beneficiaries and geographic diversity among the final grantees;
- Ability to serve underserved and diverse groups of children/providers, such as by offering trainings/coaching in Spanish or with translation services and offering trainings/coaching during the evenings or other off-times;
- Sustainability; and
- Proposed impact on children who have experienced trauma.

Expectations and Criteria for Successful Applicants

- Awards are contingent upon the grantee’s satisfactory completion of all necessary documents by the deadlines established during the contracting period.
- Any changes to a grant program or budget, made at any time during the grant period, must be requested in writing and must be approved, in advance, by the AGO.
- Grantees must demonstrate that they have safeguards in place to protect personal data which meet or exceed the requirements of M.G.L. c.93H; 940 CMR 27; and 201 CMR 17.
- Grantees must complete all bi-annual reporting requirements, including completion of a satisfactory financial and programmatic summary at the conclusion of the grant by the deadline established and in a format to be provided by the AGO.
- At the end of the grant period, any unexpended grant funds must be returned to the AGO within 30 days. No extensions will be allowed.

Questions

Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted to AGOgrants@state.ma.us, **only** until 5:00 p.m. on **January 25, 2019**. When submitting your question(s), please include “Trauma-Informed Care for Young Children” in your email subject line.

Required Commonwealth contract documents for successful grantees

These documents are listed for informational purposes and should not be submitted with the grant application. Successful applicants will be required to complete these documents within the deadline established at the time of the notification of grant award. No money will be disbursed unless the necessary documents are submitted by the deadlines established.

- Standard Contract Form
- Scope and Services Agreement
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing
- Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W-9)
- Electronic Funds Transfer Form.

Reasonable Accommodation

Applicants with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodation, which may include the receipt of the RFP information in an alternative format, must communicate such requests in writing to AGOgrants@state.ma.us no later than **January 25, 2019**.

Public records

All responses and information submitted in response to this RFP are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, § 10, and M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26. Applicants should not submit personal health information or other personal data. Any statements in submitted responses that are inconsistent with the requirement of the public records laws will be disregarded.

Updates to this RFP

Any changes/corrections to any part to this RFP will be posted on <https://www.mass.gov/grant-opportunities>. It is the applicant's responsibility to check this web page frequently for any updates.